Financial Literacy

Ms. Latham

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Semester I 2014-2015

Course Description:

This is an introductory course to financial literacy. In this class, you will learn basic tools that will enable you to create and manage a budget, set financial goals, balance your checkbook, save, and understand credit and investing.

Course Objectives:

To empower you to understand finances and increase your ability to make informed judgments and effective decisions regarding your personal finances, now and in the future.

Grading Criteria:

Your grade in this course is composed of the following factors:

30% - Class participation (points can be deducted for disruptive behavior and/or tardiness)

25% - Group Project

25% - Homework

5% - Maintaining an accurate checkbook

15% - Quizzes

A 90%-100% B 80%-89% C 70%-79%D 64%-69%F below 64%

Homework assignments will be available on Wikispace by 4 p.m. on Tuesday of each week. This means that students whose classes occur later in the week can readily preview that week’s topic and homework.

It is my goal that by providing you with a full syllabus for the semester, you are prepared and know the workload to expect as well as knowing what weeks you will or will not have class and can plan appropriately. If you note a discrepancy in the syllabus, please notify me so that I may correct it.

Extra credit is not available in this class. All homework is to be completed and submitted by its due date and time. **You will not be given credit for late homework**. If it is turned in late, it will be reviewed, but credit **will not** be given.

**Homework may not be submitted by e-mail**. Papers and other applicable assignments must be printed for submission **before** class begins.

Should you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to follow up with me about the work or notes from class you missed.

If at any time you need clarification regarding something covered in class or aren’t sure how to do an assignment, you are invited to come by my office during your study hall, lunch, or tutorial. The College Counseling Office is located in room 113.

EXPECTATIONS

Please review the expectations I have for you and the expectations you should have of yourself and of me. By enrolling in this course, you agree to do your best to meet the expectations outlined for you below.

As a student of this class, I choose to respect myself by:

* Arriving to class on time each day ready to listen, participate, and learn because I value my education.
* Listening attentively to my peers and teacher because obtaining knowledge will enhance my ability to make good choices now for my future.
* Participating in class because I will be more likely to remember what is discussed that day if I contributed to the conversation.
* Being respectful to my classmates and teacher by not interrupting, not making negative comments, etc.
* Doing my homework because it will reinforce what I have learned in class each week and further reinforce the good work habits I have already or am trying to build.
* Asking for help when I don’t understand something so that I don’t fall behind in class.
* Understanding that even though the content of this class may not be relevant to me now, it will be in the future.

As a student of this class, I choose to respect my teacher by:

* Arriving to class on time each day ready to listen, participate, and learn.
* Listening attentively to her and the information she teaches because she wants me to be successful.
* Participating in class because my teacher put time into creating a lesson plan for me that will help me to learn.
* Being respectful to her, not interrupting her, not disrupting class, not making negative comments, etc.
* Doing my homework because she took the time to plan out thoughtful assignments that will reinforce what was discussed in class.
* Asking for help when I don’t understand something because she does not want me to do poorly in her class.

As your teacher in this class, I choose to respect myself and you, my students, by:

* Preparing your lessons in advance and coming to class ready to teach.
* Arriving to class on time each day because I value your education and your time.
* Getting to know each of you so that my class will be relevant, will engage, and continue to engage you throughout the semester.
* Listening to you and understanding what you ask.
* Being respectful to you in my words and actions.
* Responding to your e-mails or questions as soon as possible so that you may do your work in a timely manner.
* Returning graded assignments to you no more than two days after you have submitted them. If you don’t know how you’ve done, you don’t know how to proceed.
* Being consistent with you in all manner of things.

Week of 3 February 2014

Establish classroom procedures, grading system, expectations.

Class discussion of post-secondary options, career preparation, and salary.

**HOMEWORK**: Determine the career you would like to have in the future. Research the training necessary for your career (What type of degree(s) or certification do you need?) Determine the average salary for someone in that field. You can use your Family Connection account to research this information. There are also websites on Wikispace, including one for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which will help you in your search.

Week of 10 February 2014

We will discuss the difference between gross and net income and how the taxes you pay are calculated. The concept of budgeting will be introduced.

**HOMEWORK**: Using the budgeting allocations presented in class, create a budget based on your net income using the worksheet given to you. How much can you spend on rent, food, utilities, etc.? Based on your calculations, scour the classifieds or realtor websites for a place to live. You will also need to determine what your transportation needs will be. Will you purchase a vehicle, use public transportation, or buy a bicycle? If you purchase a vehicle, print or cut out the ad for the car you wish to have. You will also need to print or cut out the ad for your apartment. I have provided some links on Wikispace for you to conduct your search, but you do not have to use these specific websites if you prefer to use others.

Week of 17 February 2014

Checking and Savings Accounts

**HOMEWORK:**

1. Using the checks and checkbook register given to you in class, pay your bills for the month of February. These will be due in class the week of 3 March 2014.

Week of 24 February 2014

NO CLASS THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF 11TH GRADE SAT TESTING.

Week of 3 March 2014

Credit, Interest, and Loans

We will discuss what credit is, the advantages or disadvantages to having a line of credit, and types of loans.

**HOMEWORK**: Complete the interest calculation worksheets given to you in class.

Week of 10 March 2014

What is a Credit Report?

In class today, we will review a credit report to see what it says about you as a consumer.

**HOMEWORK**: Using the checks and checkbook register given to you in class, pay your bills for the month of March.

Week of 17 March 2013

Saving for that big purchase – How to buy a house

We will have a guest speaker this week to teach you about the process of securing a loan to buy a home. This meeting will happen during lunch one day this week so that all classes can meet at the same time, which allows our guest speaker to come to school only once instead of multiple times to meet with each individual class. Please check your email and/or Wiki for the scheduled date of our class this week.

**HOMEWORK**: Answer the following questions:

* Can you imagine yourself as a homeowner? Why or why not?
* What are your financial goals? What do want to have accomplished financially by the time you graduate from college? Five years after college? When you’re 30? 45? Retired? What do you think it will take to get there?
* What kind of life do you want to live, and what does that lifestyle represent to you?
* Watch two episodes of “Extreme Couponing” on YouTube. Links are provided on Wikispace. Jot down three things you learned or were surprised about regarding this type of shopping and saving. Did you even know that this type of shopping existed? (This show is addictive. You may end up watching more than one episode.)

Week of 24 March 2014

Determining Needs from Wants

How to we know what is really a want and what is a need? What role does society play in our determination? What about those close to us or our own morals and values?

HOMEWORK: Interview two other students whom you don’t know well and each from a different grade than you. Ask them to define what their individual needs and wants are. How do they determine for themselves what is more important? Of the needs they have listed, if they had to sacrifice one, what would it be and why? Do their responses make you re-consider what you have determined for yourself to be a need or a want? Why or why not?

Week of 31 March 2014

NO CLASS THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF DC-CAS.

**HOMEWORK**: Write checks and balance your checkbook to pay your bills for the month of April.

Week of 7 April 2014

I’m Healthy and Live in a Safe Neighborhood. I Don’t Need Insurance. Right?

Today, you will learn about different types of insurance and why it is important to have insurance.

**HOMEWORK**: Have a relaxing and safe spring break!

Week of 21 April 2014

Stocks and Investing

You will have a guest speaker for this class on Tuesday, 22 April 2014 during lunch. Mr. Greg Wagner from Edward Jones will talk to our class about what stocks are and how to invest in the stock market. This meeting will happen during lunch so that all classes can meet at the same time, which allows our guest speaker to come to school only once instead of multiple times to meet with each individual class.

**HOMEWORK**: Your group has $10,000 total to invest in the market. You must invest as much as possible. Your group is responsible for investigating companies in which you want to invest. As a group, provide the following information on the worksheet given to you in class or available on Wiki:

* The companies in which you’ve chosen to invest
* Why you have chosen to invest in these companies
* What potential risks exist by investing in the companies you’ve chosen
* What the ticker symbol is
* How many shares you have purchased and at what price
* What is your total investment in each company

Begin tracking your stocks the day after Mr. Wagner’s presentation. Your last day tracking stock prices will be Friday, 2 May 2014. You will need to record the closing price each day. If you do not remember how to do this, refer to the handout given to you by Mr. Wagner or please come see me!

Week of 28 April 2014

Financial Partnerships – a.k.a. I Have a Roommate – Who Pays for What?

Considering that (fights about) money are the number one reason for divorce according to a 2013 study conducted by Kansas State University, it pays to know how to communicate with roommates, friends, or loved ones about money – and to know what your priorities, boundaries, and comfort levels are with mixing friends and finances.

**HOMEWORK**:

1. Work with a partner to draft a sample roommate agreement detailing items like financial contributions, borrowing one another’s personal belongings, food expenses, and guest rules. You can create your own agreement or use the examples on Wiki as a guideline for what you create with your partner from class.
2. Continue tracking your stocks! Friday, 2 May 2014 is the last day you will record closing prices.

Week of 5 May 2014

NO CLASS THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF AP TESTING.

Use this week to work as a group on your presentation for class next week!

Week of 12 May 2014

Today in class, you will present your investment projects.

Week of 19 May 2014

Clipping Coupons Gets You Fat Cat Stacks

How to find the best deals and save money!

**HOMEWORK**:

1. Go home and teach mom/dad/guardian what you learned today. See how you can help your family save money on the things you buy or use every day!
2. Please write checks to pay your bills for the month of May. These will be due the week of 26 May 2014.

Week of 26 May 2014

Protecting Your Identity, Semester wrap-up

**HOMEWORK**: Enjoy your summer!